

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 are currently pending, wherein claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and 36 are independent. Claim 15 has been amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-14 and 22-42 by the Patent Office.

Applicants further note with appreciation the acknowledgment by the Patent Office of the information disclosure statements submitted to the Patent Office on May 20, 2005, April 1, 2005, and November 5, 2004.

Applicants also note with appreciation the acceptance by the Patent Office of the drawings filed on November 19, 2004.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Sam K. Ahn for the personal interview conducted on August 2, 2005, and for subsequent telephone conferences with the Examiner. In compliance with M.P.E.P. § 713.04, the substance of those discussions is incorporated in the foregoing amendments to the claims and in the following remarks.

In the second section of the Office Action, claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the suggestions made by the Patent Office. These amendments are made merely to clarify the language of the claims, and do not narrow or otherwise limit the scope of the claims. No new matter has been introduced

by way of these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 is allowable.

Dependent claims 16-21 variously depend from independent claim 15, and are also allowable for at least those reasons stated above with regard to independent claim 15.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney, Andrew J. Bateman, by telephone at (202) 625-3547. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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